

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant(s):</b>	Yuichi Ikeda, et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Matthew J. Kasztejna
<b>Serial No:</b>	10/673,122	<b>Art Unit:</b>	3739
<b>Filed:</b>	September 26, 2003	<b>Docket:</b>	17057
<b>For:</b>	ELECTRIC BENDING ENDOSCOPE	<b>Dated:</b>	August 11, 2008
<b>Conf. No.:</b>	1307		

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION**

Sir:

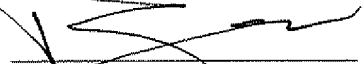
Pursuant to the election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated July 9, 2008, Applicants elect the claims of Species A, readable on claims 1, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18-25 and 27 for continued prosecution.

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**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website on the date set forth below.

Dated: August 11, 2008

  
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Thomas Spinelli

Claims 1, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 18-28 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species A,

Species B,

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species A and B are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species A, readable on claims 1, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18-25 and 27.<sup>1</sup> However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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<sup>1</sup> Although the Examiner indicates claims 1-25 and 28 as reading on Species A, Applicants note that claims 2-7, 10-14, and 17 have been previously canceled.